

IN MEMORY OF...

FANZINE
ISSUE TWO
Only 25¢

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YOUR SOUL WILL BURN!!!

THINK ABOUT IT

RECORD & TAPE REVIEWS

PICK OF THE LITTER

New Breed cass. comp. 20 bands/35 songs

What could be better than this? Nothing! Last year's N.Y.C. compilation "The Way It Is" was a good record but, it was so unsincere and behind-the-scenes bullshit spoiled it from becoming what it could have been. Chaka & Freddy have worked hard to present you with this tape of HARDCORE! They have given many unknown bands a chance to show you what they are made of. If you haven't given some of these bands a chance (I know I'm guilty of that), then get this tape. They all come off well (Well, most of them). Now my opinion of the bands.

ABSOLUTION - "Never Ending Game" Don't really like them, but, everytime I hear studio stuff, it moves me.

LIFE'S BLOOD - "Maximum Security" & "Youth Enrage" (live) Didn't think they would choose to put these live tracks on this. They are awful, shame because they were a great band!

OUTBURST - "The Hardway", "Thin Ice" & "Controlled" (live) Never liked them, these tracks are much better than the demo.

OIR - "Anger", "My Tomorrow", & "Without A Home" Wow! I thought these guys sucked! these tracks are great. Where's the record?

COLLAPSE - "Failure?" Well, I don't know about their other songs, but, this is a failure.

PRESSURE RELEASE - "Try" & "The Line" Another surprise, they've gotten better.

Breakdown - "Don't Give Up" & "What It Is" Well, Jeff is not giving up, but, these songs are marred by bad production. Besides that, they are good tunes.

TRUE COLORS - "No Way To Live" Lyrically the song's pretty good, musically a bit average.

SHOW OF FORCE - "Finding It Hard" Probably the comp's weakest track. Can't judge them by one song though.

Direct Approach - "True Vision" & "No Respect" Really good tracks, like to hear more.

RAW DEAL - "Back Track" & "Wall of Hate" If this is any indication of what the upcoming LP is going to be like, it's pretty sad.

ABOMINATION - "Disinherited", "Something Must Be Wrong" & "Not Kosher" Never really liked these guys either, really good tracks on this tape.

Beyond - "Seasons" & "Someday" (live) Porcelyn's own discovery, turns out a couple of their own style of hardcore. Very good.

DIRECT - "Reach Out" & "One Life" Really hot! Where did these guys come from? like to hear more.

UPPERCUT - "Down For The Count" & "Am I Clear?" Have always been better live, these tracks are alright.

FIT OF ANGER - "The Oppressed" & "Revealing The Truth" Some decent tunes, not more I could think to say about them.

DISCIPLINE - "We All Learn" Wasn't as bad as I expected it to be, will probably be a good band.

BAD TRIP - "Something More" UNDER PRESSURE - "SUPREMIST"

STAND TOUGH - "Bust"

Not trying to write you guys off as totally bad, but, these tracks are just average. Keep trying.

As you can see, I think it's a mixed bag, but, it's definately the BEST thing to come out in early '89. When things like this are put out, it makes me think all hope is not lost in the hardcore scene. Comes with a great lyrics & grafix book! Buy this tape, you'll not be sorry! Chaka & Freddy, I applaud you.

\$5.00 to:
URBAN STYLE
FDR STATION
Box 1721
NEW York, N.Y. 10122

THE BEST

BLIND APPROACH - "New Age" ?

This is great! The way Agnostic Front should sound like now. Only 3 songs, but, this is a hot record. "New Age" has some really good lyrics. Photo insert, lyrics, & printed cardstock cover. A real Do-It-yourself job. More should be like this!

\$3.00 BAND
P.O. Box 50139
St. Paul, MN 55105
(612) 228-0059

P.S. They are looking for people to help them set up shows for their summer tour. Get in touch with them!

WRECKING CREW - "Balance Of Power" LP

I never used to like this band or their seven inch, but, this record turned me around. Good songs like "Guts And Glory", "Too Late" & "Why Must They!". Fast thrash with vocals like A.F. and Crucifix at times. Not a classic, but, good to listen to a lot. Why does this have to be on Hawker? Buy it used, never new.

HAWKER RECORDS \$7.99 at any store

NO FOR AN ANSWER - "A Thought Crusade" LP

Why does a great record like this have to be on Hawker? This LP totally tears up their 7" and all my Half-Off comparisons go right into the gutter. Hard to say what tracks are the best, all are good. "Don't Look Away", "I Spy", "Answer Me" are just some of them. Why? Why? Why? Hawker records? Buy it used! I did!

HAWKER RECORDS \$7.99 at any stupid chain store.

HARD STANCE - "Face Reality" ?

Decent. They really try to be original here and kinda succeed. A very different sound from the demo, that being fast and this record the speed is slowed. Only one song is from the demo (Diecrepancy). The production is a little hollow, the best song "Quick To Judge". Still, get this because it's D.I.Y.. Also on two colors so far, blue & red.

Hard Stance
P.O. Box 4351
Irving, CA 92716

THE REST

SLAFAE Demo '88

How can I describe this in one word? Awful. More straight-edge words, this doesn't even rip-off posh bands (A surprise?) but it is just plain bad. Real sloppy.

Release c/o Rob
60 Gurley Rd.
Edison, N.J. 08817

MISERY "Born...Fed...SLAUGHTERED" 7"

Well, I expected more from this. Lyrically good and nice layout, it is the music that kills this record. The songs are just way too long and would probably be better if they got the production down right. Too noisy, can barely make out what's going on, they are going to have a follow-up 7" out soon maybe that will fare better.

Misery
P.O.Box 3879
Mpls, MN 55403

BREAKAWAY 7"

Well, on the cover you have Revelation shirts and haircut heaven. Inside not much more. First song "Competition" is a direct Y.O.T. rip-off and the rest is a little like Instead. In other words, NO ORIGINALITY. Posi-lyrics galore!!

Breakaway
431 Gregg Pl.
San Ramon, CA 94583

Bill Wilson's N.Y.C. compilation LP & the MADBALL 7" are out now, but, didn't get them in time for review this issue.

FANZINE REVIEWS

IN-TOUCH No#1 \$1.25

Another straight t-edge fanzine, I guess it would be C.K., it is just that the interviews are really skimpy and the reviews are pretty simple. Alright to look through. Int. w/ L.O.T., Vision, Open Eyes, Stand Back and On Top.

In -touch
529 Woodland Ave.
Brielle, N.J. 08730

LOADED QUESTIONS No#1 25¢

Tired of paying high fanzine prices? Are those Y's burning a hole in your pockets? Well, get wise and get some required reading. Jon doesn't hold back and lets you know what's up. Many record & fanzine reviews, photos galore & a great Sticks & Stones interview. Much to read for only \$1.50 \$1.25 \$1.00 \$0.75 SEE 25¢!!!

Jonathan Hiltz
421 Elm Street
Westfield, N.J. 07090

RIGHT TRASH No#1 \$1.00

I normally wouldn't go for something like this, but, it's pretty good. Stands on its own because it doesn't follow the "standard" zine format that everybody uses these days. Int. w/ All For One, Our Gang, Fit of Anger, The Verbal Jester! Minutes to Manhattan shows Reviews and format are great! Also, a pizza parlor ad? (YUM! YUM!) Get it!

Right Trash
c/o Rich Oliver
20-21 Utopia Hwy
Whitestone, N.Y. 11357

LIVE FAIRLY No# 1 \$1.00

Well, violence broke out over this one, so it must be good (Ha! Ha! Ha! I'm only kidding.) but, it is very good. I don't care what anybody says. Lots of good reading. Interviews with Slapshot, Life's Blood, Freewill, Breakdown, Our Ding. Plus the "Phil & Tom" page that started it all. Some of the most intelligent record reviews I've seen in a while. Really great pix of "Life's Blood". Buy it.

Give Thanks
c/o Tom K.
21 Dairy Rd.
Greenwich, CT 06830

IN-EFFECT No#3 \$1.00

Well, No#3 is here and it's starting to look like every other fanzine. Much too slick, has interviews with A.F., Breakdown, SunTouch and Terminal Confusion. Many show, record and fanzine reviews, definitely though In-Effect is kissing up to the bigger labels. And Chris maybe the reason bands are going for the 7" is because it is the vinyl format that has been associated with hardcore for years. If it ain't broke, don't fix it. My opinion.

In-Effect
c/o Chris Wynne
119-16 8th ave.
College Point, N.Y. 11356

We are being threatened with Boiling Point # 3. Also, Combat Stance #3 will be out very soon.

SHOW REVIEW

MARCH 18th, 1989 -- DAY OF RAGE

Well, it's "In Memory Of..." 's first show review. Actually two shows in one day and what a day it was. First, it poured down rain. Second, I wasn't in the best mood, alot of people were supposed to meet me in the afternoon, but, things fell through. Anyways, I went to Scoundrels in Linden (my town) to see World Discrimination and Sticks & Stones. Got there, sold a few fanzines and watched the first band which I forgot the name. They were alright but very corny. Any band who does a cover "Anarchy in the U.K." is pretty corny.

Survived that and then came World Discrimination. I don't care what anybody says, I like them. They played well, but, nobody got into them except for friends of the band.

Sticks & Stones, what can I say? When I first seen them play "live", I passed them off as a Social Distortion clone who was very rehearsed and tight. Now I really like them alot. They played the best set I've seen them do (even though Brian says they were off). It was great, cool to see bands so near to where I live. To all bands, check this place out, it's just off Rt. 1 in Linden, N.J. Small, but, a good space. Thank you Rich for driving me home.

Got home and phoned the "men" from Westfield and off we were to the Anthrax in Conn. I'll tell you, The Anthrax is just about the best place to see a band, but, the ride there (and back!!) is tedious. Going up to see Slapshot, then after we got there, we find out it's a benefit for Rover/A.F. and it's \$0.00??!

I've been questioning all these benefits lately. If none of the bands are getting paid, why is the door price so high? I could see \$5 or \$6, but, not \$9. Well, I was with other people, so I had no choice. In a way I'm glad I did, talking to the people there was much better than the show itself.

First band we was Crossface, but, I was talking to a friend and missed them. Blind Approach were next and let me tell you, they were great! The last band of the night!! Traveled 24 hours by car to play two shows on a weekend. Now that is dedication! Check them out when they swing around these parts in the summertime. Cool guys to talk to also.

Well, Vision were up next and by now you all know what happened at the bar area, some serious violence went down. If you know what happened, you decide if it was right or wrong. By the way, Vision were the best I've seen them, but, I still don't think they are any good. Instead were the next band on and they weren't good at all. They try so hard to be Y.O.T., it's pathetic. Jon and I talked to them after the set and they turned out to be intelligent people. I really wish we had more time to talk, but Slapshot the band I came to see were on.

Slapshot played the usual good set, the last show at CBGB's was much better. It was a bit late, everyone was tired. Choke stormed off the stage after the last song and there wasn't any encore. After this, I was ready to go home. The trip back was long, three hours to be exact. I would like thank Jay & Phil for putting the pedal to the metal and getting me home in one piece. I don't know how many more Anthrax trips like this I can take.

COMBAT STANCE

Send to:
905 Stevens Ave.
Westfield, N.J. 07090-2214

COMBAT STANCE ISSUE 3 out now!
with SLAPSHOT PLUS much more
FREE (75¢ in stamps)

In Memory Of... says: "Required reading!"
Boiling Point says: "It sucks!"
Average Joe on the street says: "These guys are just crazy!"

If you didn't get my first issue, it's still available for 25¢ stamp. Also, tape traders ask for my complete trade and want list. Even if you don't have any tapes to trade, I'm looking for other assorted junk esn. Old Marvel comical Write!!!

OPINIONS & FACTS PAGE

"THIS IS THEIR SITE" BY D. MCENIG

Caroline Hawker, In-Effect, Combat-Core. The bottom rung of the corporate ladder. More and more bands are (quietly) signing up with these labels, promising empty promises. Why? People have many reasons, but there is no reason to sign with a label which really doesn't give a shit about the music except if it makes money. Unfortunately, hardcore has become such a trendy and lucrative enterprise that these labels are like vultures on scabs of meat.

One thing these labels promise is distribution. Sure if you want your record in every Sam Goody and similar chain store across America. Many great records have sold out their pressings without in-store distribution. Selling them at shows, on the road, through the mail and at good local record stores is a much better bet. People that want the record will find a way to get it.

These labels only care about money, just look how much the records cost on these labels. Now it's about \$7.99-\$7.99!!! Why? Because there is a lot of people to pay, much which isn't necessary. Just get rid of those lawyers and promotional people. Who needs them? Hardcore is about doing it yourself not help feed the corporation.

Some bands cry "Well, we can't afford it!" Most of these bands can, is it worth selling yourself for a few thousand dollars. I'm sure you could scrape up the money between the 4 or 5 of you. Most of these records coming out are so bad because they are overproduced, too much money put into it. For a few hundred, you can get a good sounding disc if you work at it. Take your time and do it right!!

"We want to get our names out!" Oh sure, by having it splattered all over half-assed metal magazines, a stupid promo pack and reviewed in Spin will get you far. Most of these bands won't or can't play out after signing to record deals, because the damn labels want to just push the record when the time is right.

"We can't get a tour set up without the labels help!" Yeah, that's the easy way out. With a few phone calls and some effort, you can get a tour set up by yourself. If you play out-of-town, more than likely people will put you up for the night and offer food. Etc., if you play small shows, these kids will make sure you're taken care of. If the label takes care of it, most of your shows are going to be at big places with bigger door prices.

There are many more things wrong with the major independents, I could write a book if I had the time. I know some people are going to say I'm just talking a bunch of shit, well FUCK YOU! I'm not the ones who said they were going to stay away from these labels or use the famous line "Hardcore is a movement not a business!" It may be cliché, but that's stabbing hardcore in the back. It's a shame because some of the people I'm friends with are in these bands. One day, I'll be walking by a newsstand and I'll see your faces on the latest issue of "Speed Metal" magazine, who are just going to pass you off as just another band. To me, you were special. STAY AWAY FROM THESE LABELS!!! To everyone, if you want to buy these records, do so but get them in the used bins. Don't support these labels, they don't support you!!

THE STRAIGHT EDGE By Alan Hutchinson

There is one aspect of straight-edge that has been largely overlooked by both its critics and its supporters. This is the issue of buying into the system. Most people seem refusing to do drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, etc., as passive and conformist, doing what your parents tell you. I can only speak for myself when I say my parents have little to do with my decision not to pollute myself with government sponsored poison. Yes, that's right, the government of the United States, the beer, liquor and tobacco industries all profit from your destruction of your mind and body.

People think they're being rebellious and saying "Fuck the world!" by getting wasted, but nothing's farther from the truth. Getting wasted makes you passive, not abstaining from it. Drugs hinder our logical thought processes to the point where you are putty in the hands of authority. People concerned more with their escape through drugs do not notice, let alone protest, their rights going down the drain, they just get high some more and let things run their course. In this day and age that course is the ramming down your throat of consumer goods and dehumanized attitudes about everything from animal rights to your own rights (and the two are closely related).

When you wear that shirt with a beer company on it, you advertise for a fucking corporation that most likely promotes sexism, animal suffering, a waste of precious food resources and in general total stupidity. You may wonder how consuming alcohol drugs or cigarettes contributes to animal suffering. Through research to find "cures" for addiction to these poisons, millions of animals are forced into addiction worldwide in labs. If you didn't buy the product, they would not be able to sell it, and there would be no reason to test it. (As it is drug addiction research on animals which is unproductive and unreliable.)

"OH BOY! MOM, CAN I CALL THE HARDCORE FAX NUMBER?!?"

NO TIME AN ANSWER
L.A.'s premier raw-edge band who aspire a strong moral conscience.

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A Hardcore Extravaganza

FEATURING in order of appearance:

BEST IN PIECES
N.Y.'s hardest band. Tougher Than Leather.

TOKEN ENTRY
... gone for the thrash... like a zombified leper off the leash.

SEE WITH YOUR EYES!!!!!!
Furying bodies dive-bombing off the 5-foot stage like graceful birds.

SEE WITH YOUR EYES!!!!!!
A whirlpool of sweaty, young bald kids with combat boots banging, marching, and dancing... into one another to a hard driving "blowout" sound.

WHERE CASE A 315 Bowery
WHEN Sunday, April 11 8pm or 3:00 AMhard. \$8.00

WHY This event will be videotaped and recorded for a compilation to be released by HAWKER RECORDS in July

WHO For further information and guest accommodations, contact John Ballo or John Hasko at (212)249-0077.

WHAT HAVING FUN YET? DO YOU DARE?

If you are a vegetarian, there is a contradiction in your putting poison into your body. It causes the suffering of innocent animals. But a lot of you don't give a shit about animals, so I'd like to stress that in general you are being a good american, buying into the system when you drink that beer, smoke that joint or cigarette. You're not unique, cool, or funny for using toxic substances on your body. You're just plain fucking stupid.

Who's the real rebel, The one who decides not to be a part of this shit, or the mindless idiot who imitates their parents, television and all authority. By the way, I'm not trying to imply that all people who are straight think for themselves, we only have to look as far as our own N.Y. straight-edge high school jock to know that's not true.

If you have any comments on the above two articles or have any intelligent ideas or opinions that you would like to be known please send them to me to be printed.

If you are interested in getting info/pamphlets/fliers on various animal rights/explitation subjects, please send a 25¢ stamp and I'll send you an envelope full of such information.

EXHUMED FROM THE "IN MEMORY OF..." CRYPT

Well, we now look back 3 years at a conversation with Ray Cappo of Youth Of Today. In order to save space, I cut out material that really wasn't necessary. I didn't take anything out of context, so everything presented here is what Ray actually said. It was originally to be printed in my old fanzine, *The Shot Heard Around The World*. Hope you enjoy it.

Interview with Ray Cappo of Youth Of Today
Taken on Dec. 21, 1986 in Somersdale, N.J.C.
Present were: Me, Sammy, Bill, Luke, Duane,
and various members of the audience

S: Well, we know before Youth Of Today, you and John...unusually started out in Violent Children.

John didn't join until the last year of Violent Children.

S: What was the time the transition was made into Youth Of Today?

R: It was May of '85; it just happened one day.

S: What made you decide to form a band in the mold of Youth Of Today?

R: Well, when we were in high school, Violent Children came together, so we all started to grow together. John came into the band, John and I started growing in a different way. Getting different influences. The other guys in the band were getting into Kiss and Motley Crue and shit like that. They still liked some hardcore, but, I wasn't into that shit at all. John and I had our own ideas on what we wanted to say all. John and I had our own ideas on what we wanted to say all. We never really loved Violent Children, but, with the band, we liked it, it was fun and we got to play out. We liked it.

S: How long did that band last?

R: Violent Children? Along time, a couple of years.

S: The tape that you released this year, *Violent Children - Look Against Spindlers*, was that old material?

R: Yeah, I didn't put that out, that was a kid's crew. That was after the 7" was released and the recording was without John.

S: Who did you record the single "Can't Close My Eyes"?

R: According, I think, Oct of '85, we toured with 7 Seconds, 7 Seconds went up to Rochester, we didn't go with them that day. So, we went to the studio and recorded it.

S: So, Kevin Seconds produced the record.

R: No, he didn't.

S: He didn't?

R: Not at all, just said he produced it, 'cause we didn't like this kid at all.

S: Well, I read the MU interview a few months back and thought he said that he did produce it.

R: I don't remember him saying that, at all. He didn't do it. Kevin put out the record.

S: How many were pressed to date?

R: Positive Force goes through some guy, like most bigger record labels, run through people. There is no actual Positive Force pressing plants. This guy is, well, I don't really trust him that much. So, I really can't say. About 3,000 copies, I really don't know, who keeps books on it and Kevin still knows it all.

S: Ok, let me get to something about ideas that's bothered about. First off, do you consider yourselves a pacifist or a militant straight-edge band?

R: I have to pick one or the other?

S: Well, no, what would you consider yourself closer to?

R: Well, it's two different things. That is like saying, "Do you like punk or do you like metal?"

S: Let's compare it to old Boston values and attitudes, if that's what you're on and such.

R: I don't think I can just say we are "this" or "that". Actually, I'm not a pacifist, but, I'm pretty close to one.

S: Do you think violence is justified in certain situations?

R: Uh, well, it's a hard thing to say. I think the most beautiful people never consider it. Thus, me, personally, keeps me from being a pacifist. Because if I see a girl being raped, I'd step in as if I saw someone getting beat up.

S: Or as an act of self-defense, which I'm trying to bring out.

R: Well, I'll get to a certain point where, hopefully I'll become a pacifist, but, I'm not, that's it right now.

S: What made you decide to be or become "straight-edge", the idea of it?

R: Well, it came before Metal教会, when we first started getting into punk, we just wanted to get away from the whole high school thing, which we were all in with our 10th grade. We were out of all that, there drugs, long hair and stuff, was all part of that, we tried to get into the newer direction, tried to get away from it all. Stopped drinking, just quit drinking. Then I started doing it a little again in high school, then realized it wasn't worth it, so I quit and just stopped.

S: For me, I consider straight-edge like all your life, I don't consider "being reformed", then calling yourself straight-edge, what do you think? Do you think a person has to be pure or do you think that's justified?

R: You mean a guy who likes beer drinks?

S: Let's just take a guy who was doing drugs last year, not got off of it and now is like I'm straight-edge.

R: Yeah, I guess it all depends. I think kids have a kinda that they've conquered something like drugs, I guess you have to tell me more about this kid/incident.

S: No, I'm just saying as an example.

R: Well, then that's what I would say to that.

S: Like I'm saying this because in 1986 we've seen straight-edge and the unity movement rise really rapidly, especially this year, compared to other years and definitely in N.Y. compared to other places. You've seen it. You're in a band that has a good following right now. Like, so what do you think when you see a kid, one year into drugs and like now I'm straight-edge?

R: Well, look, you'll always have trends in hardcore. In N.Y.C., you've had millions of trends, it's been death rock, it's been punk, it's been sickened and it's been whatever this is called. You know, you've always had trends in any sort of social group, of course, it has to f**k up parts. You have people who are doing it because their friends are doing it, but, the fact is suppose these is some trend to help out kids across the street or something, would you rather see that or the "Spray paint the walls" trend or the "Break windows" trend. There are trends, so if the kid sees his friend helping out ladies across the street, he thinks he should and he helps the person across the street, something good and come out of it. I think there is a lot who get sucked into it and want to get more into it, I don't think there is that much evil coming out of it. Rather than a mainstream trend, which I think causes a lot of problems.

S: Ok, so how about the live show. The first time I've seen you was in June of '86 with Crippled Birth, Warzone and what in Pleasant, 6/6/86 (CRGB's) I had the record when I first came out and I saw it was real good, happy that something like this was coming out, but, when I seen the live show, I was like really let down. You know, I could accept the screaming, stage-diving, large-crowds of kids and size-along, but, for me it had a negative effect. It seemed to be care about what was being said and they seemed to be violent. I mean, I've seen more kids get fucked up real bad.

R: I know, I know when I dance, I can't dance to Seven Drives, I just dance to Mr. Know. Usually when I dance, I'm inspired to dance, I move, like to 7 Seconds I dance the best. When Bold or Uniform Choice, they play I get sicked and that is what I think dancing should be. The movement of your body, your moves. Your soul has been moved and that is what I think it is about. I think alot of kids, you see definitely tell at the live, people are just playing the role.

S: They are.

R: I know, you can see and you can feel it. You can feel they don't have anything in it, you can tell the kids who really love to dance. You can tell how they are moving, and it doesn't matter how they dance. I see they are really loving it. They know what's going on, I know, but, like I said hardcore attracts alot of weird, fucked up kids that are just into it because their friends are into it.

S: Now let's talk bands, what do you think is the most influential band on the street in the world right now? A band that has something good to say.

R: That has something good to say?

S: Yes.

R: That is a hardcore band?

S: It could be any band.

R: I don't know if you call 7 Seconds hardcore, but, I like 7 Seconds, Love Uniform Choice, I love Bold.

S: How how do you feel about Bold. A lot of people give them criticism, esp. me. Well, first of all, they're very young and I can understand that. I know myself that there is alot of change between the ages of 14 and 18. Do you think, I mean I know you're friends with them, but, how do you think some-time? Do you feel strongly about them?

R: Them as in friends or as a group?

S: Them as a group, say you were some body that didn't even know them.

R: I like what they say, we're friends, but, friends though they don't live near us anymore and we don't hang out with them. I mean they come down on weekends and stuff, but, I don't hang out with them as if I write the songs for them. They really write their own songs and shit like that and the things they come out with, like when Bold plays, it is like watching me play. I mean I do everything we set out to do, the way we wanted to do and that's why I love Youth Of Today, I don't think there is anything wrong with that. It's not an ego problem, I just love what we do. I think every band should love what they do. Anyway, Bold are into what they do. At first, when they started, we were a big influence on them and they got alot of criticism for that. In the same way, you know when you're in the 9th grade you latch on to older kids. When I was in 9th grade, I mean to talk to those kids (Bold) and you talk to my other kids, it's incredible. See such they're growing up out of it and I've got to hand it to them, I can't judge them, you can judge anyone...

R: Ok, what about some of the bands on the S.T. circuit? Are they really a tight and unified thing?

R: I think alot of people are cool. None are pretty much the same. Although they all lump together Youth Of Today, Warzone, Straight Ahead, Gorderdog, but, forget it, we're definately not the same bands.

R: What about the band changes? It seems the nucleus has just been you & John.

R: We're the original members, but, now Richie's in it. He is really into it.

R: But, how do you feel about that? Say someone sees you three times and every single time it is somebody different.

R: Hey, I wish we had a permanent line-up. You know, what can I say? Well, when we first started, the peopple on the scene, only John and I were really into our ideas. While Pease and Graham, Graham was our friend, but, he wasn't really that straight. Pease wasn't straight at all. It takes alot to find people with the same standards. Same ideas as into Youth Of Today.

R: So there is a certain standard to get into Youth Of Today.

R: Yeah, if you want to call it that "standard". It is just kids who are going to think like us. I mean before we are going to go out on a limb and say something, we definately all have to come from the same roots. Anyway, I'm not saying we're alone, but, we have alot of the same principles.

R: That do you think of what alot of the political bands are saying now, that they can't get in nowhere, that it is so divided.

R: You know what happens alot. A lot of people, when it gets right down to it, don't really care what the message is. They want to see good music and when the bands don't deliver the good music, then they don't care about the message. Then again, on the other hand, if they have good music, then they start listening to it and get more into the message type of things.

R: Do you think the political aspect of hardcore died?

R: No, I don't know.

R: What about the unity aspect of it, the peace, now? How long do you think it will last?

R: I never want this whole thing to be a trend or whatever. I don't think it has a time limit on it because, I mean, I've been in the scene for years and it's definately changed along the way. I have had the same sort of ideas since I was young. That is never going to change and I hope it won't change in these people whether their into hardcore or whatever they are into. They'll still take pieces of it with them, I don't care if the trend dies, if we have something to say we'll say it.

R: What about these songs you got on "Domestic Fun"?

R: We were a band for about two weeks, that was the very first time we have ever recorded.

R: Ok, so we won't close this, but, do you have anything to say? Because I don't want to piss anyone off, but, for me, the whole decision of straight-edge, I have been this way all my life, from what I have seen and what I feel. And basically it's the whole idea of it, you know the drugs, the alcohol and the cigarettes. People think "Oh, well you can just have some fun." But in actuality, it's not. So what do you think? I know you said before it's like the whole high school thing.

R: Well, I just think the whole thing, Drugs, smoking and such, there is nothing constructive coming out of it. Although, when it comes right down to it, smoking a cigarette, or smoking a joint, drinking a beer isn't that bad if you do it once in a while. Not that bad, but, it's not good, nothing like that.

R: When you hang out, you don't just sit around with your friends, do you? Let's just say somebody is drinking, you don't just walk away from them.

R: I have a lot of friends that drink, I mean I go to bars and don't drink, 'cause my friends are there.

R: I couldn't even do that, I am not violently straight-edge, but, there is certain things I won't do. Well, you play in a place, like CRGB's, you have no qualms again playing in a bar.

R: No.

R: (I call my friend Sammy's attention to the interview.) Hey Sam, do you have any interesting questions for Ray?

This song "Break Down Your Walls", what does it mean? Does it mean you're gonna be open or just...?

It means like a kid's gonna be open, you know? Like... like, you know, like you're gonna be open, but it's not, you know, like that.

It's hard not to judge whether people are coloured, black or white, it's definitely about prejudice, but, basically it's about judging people before you get to know them, or like "uh, look at those posers over there, with their mohawks and leather jackets!" You know, whether they are into music or not, they might be cool people. Just because people aren't into hardcore doesn't mean they're not cool. Some of my socialist friends are not into hardcore or not into punk.

How do you feel about guys?

How do I feel about them? Live and let live.

You don't have any negative views towards them?

I don't.

I mean can you stand them or not?

Of course I can. Then that's just like saying can you stand blacks! Doesn't matter if a black guy punches me in the face or a gay guy punches me in the face, it's a man.

You heard about Doc Martens, right?

Doc Martens! Well, I'll get back to that. Oh well, yeah, a lot of posers from the suburbs think of guys as some weird cult group. Boys are just... people. It's so big deal, they don't bother me.

Do their actions bother you?

But are their actions? What are gay people's actions? Gay people are just people like men. Not like they are running around wearing dresses. They're very open.

Especially here in N.Y.C.

Everybody's got weird things about them, I got weird things about me.

Well, you know, N.Y. has a history, like the old N.Y. bands going "Fag-bashing."

Not all old N.Y. bands. A lot of people do.

A lot of people judge N.Y. bands for that.

Well, I hate to get judged and lumped into a hardcore category. I mean hardcore has definitely got a million things going for it. At the same time people were "Fag-bashing", there were people who weren't, I would never do it, I would never go and attack somebody. It's a very stupid thing, I think.

So there is no prejudice whatsoever involved in your ideas.

I try not to be prejudiced. Of course, there is probably prejudice somewhere.

I guess everybody has a little.

Sometimes it's inherent, if not inherent, a lot of it is what you grew up with. Sometimes I don't feel comfortable around guys; just depends on the situation. You know, you go to the Pyramid Club you feel a little weird. It's all part of, you know, different things you don't experience, you are going to feel weird. It's like being on the subway with all blacks, people and being the only white person. You'd feel weird.

I kinda felt that way in a movie theater in Brooklyn.

You try not to be prejudiced, but, you're not you just feel uncomfortable.

You might not be prejudiced, but, the others might be. You get that feeling.

Yeah, N.Y. is a lot different than a lot of other places anyway.

How well do you think the "straight-edge" message is being received?

Oh, I definitely think it's being received! How well do I think it is being received? I think it's being received, definitely, kids come up to me, I know kids, kids like Craig (present bass player) before he was even in our band, Craig used to be seriously into pot and stuff, then bands like us and other bands just turned him around. Not saying it was all on us, I've had kids coming up to me and saying "Craig didn't know about it, they wouldn't have become straight-edge. Punk is a powerful tool, you know."

It is it is.

And if you have something good to say, you should say it. Let your views be known. At the same time, there are also bands going around and putting out evil messages.

Yeah, ok, talk about music, what other kinds of music do you listen to?

I like sid punk, I like 1-ray Spex, Buzzcocks, Devo, New Jersey, I collect records.

Do you like any of what we might call "above-ground" music?

I don't like mainstream music really, I like indie music, bands like U2, I like Bob Dylan, Simon and Garfunkel, I don't really get beyond that. Oh, I like 80's ska, but, I don't like 80's ska.

What kind of hands?

What kind of bands, I like the sid punks, and I like some new波新曲 a little. None of it really matters anyway, but, I like some of it.

I mentioned before that I thought that this was the year of commercialism. How do you feel about it? The commercialism, are you seeing, like the extreme press that followed punk, especially here in N.Y. with that Donnas show and such.

Lies, shit or it, you know, is not good when it is portrayed in an half hour or hour, or in an article. There is a lot more to it.

But, what do you think when you see your friends on TV, trying to prove... you know, I could never bring myself to do something like that, Unheard of... trying to prove something when you don't have to prove yourself to anyone,

Well, you don't have to prove it to someone, but, I think it's good to speak your mind, to say how you feel and explain where you are coming from and why you put things on your jacket as whatever. Well, that's how I feel, I think I have to prove.

What prompted you to play Rock Hotel show (Aug. 4th; Discharge/C.O.C./D.R.I./Youth of Today) That is a question a lot of people were asking.

We all made a decision. We just did it, I tell him a bit about the press conference with Chris Williamson the day before.)

How do you feel about what people say it stands for, I mean I go to the kids' slot (not rock Hotel show, though), but, you were on a bill with three bands that wouldn't attract the crowd you do. How do you feel about the kids playing like \$10.00, seeing you and fearing?

It sucks! I didn't have any good feelings that we play, so, just bad feelings. I cried when we stayed that show.

So what's your favorite kind of game to sing? Do you like playing CB's a lot?

I like playing CB's, but, they're usually having like about the 15th side there. I mean when I first started going to that club, little kids were! The actual stage structure, though, it's one of the best around, I mean I like playing big shows, you know. I think every band wants to play a big show, sort of like you get to be Van Halen kinda. If you play the slot or you play Fandango. Play Fandango for \$500 pacific, like Sacramento for \$500.

Let's talk for a minute about what I said before about this gang violence thing out there. What would you say to you see this big fight in the street, what would you say?

I usually stop. I seen a fight at the Ritz, I stopped. It wasn't a gang fight, but, I do what ever my instinct tells me, I usually just stop the song, try to break it up, which we've done si all the times at CBGB's, at the Ritz, I jumped off the stage. Especially like the things you're saying, it's ridiculous to have gang fights. You see some people here got to hang out in a gang, you know. I don't go for that. If there was a gang fight, I'd probably walk off the stage. Can't really say unless there is a situation.

How do you feel about skinheads and punks, this huge thing that seems to go on forever? We're talking true skinheads.

True skinheads! True skinheads are a working class kid from England. Any American who's a skinhead is sort of trying to rip-off another culture. It's like as walking around in wooden shoes and claiming it's a Dutch boy. Sort of weird, sort of like a romantic thing. People want to be something else, like all these bands on the N.Y. East coast going around and dressing like they are mod. I mean the way we dress is the way the kids we hang out with just developed into dressing, a natural way...

Your own style.

I mean this is not identical, but, you can tell the N.Y. kids have their own style and I think that's cool. Like these little scamps have their own way of growing up and starting their own culture, but, going out and buying Fred Perry shirts and Doc Martins, you know the assassin skinheads go out and buy Doc Martins to because they are a sharp boot 'cos the working class.

But, they are expensive!

They are but over there in England, they're not. Now people will buy them because, "Hey, it's cool to wear them."

Do you have a strong stance on fascism?

I wish I could, but, there's a definite...

Like my gain; to the Rec details...

I think fascism is definitely a factor in this. I'm thinking on people, looks with their minds. Definitely, just the fact that there are mirror. Mirrors fuck people up. Why do you look in a mirror? You're not looking into it to make yourself happy, less the mirror and see how other people perceive you. Yeah, that's fucked up, but, we do it, I still look in the mirror.

Well, you don't have to...

You don't have to, but, you know.

But, it's natural because mirrors are all over the place. You always see yourself.

I'm saying it's really hard to break out of it.

Ok, what kind of hobbies do you have? That you are really into!

Right now, collecting records...

See you slot in the stores.

Can't seem to stop collecting records. I like to backpack, go camping...

When do you find time for that?

Later, I haven't. Last time, I was out west in the Grand Canyon. Oh no, west sunbathing set that long ago.

Anywhere around here that you can do that?

I used to do that in the Appalachian Trail, but, that's my personal thing, I don't know about lots of today's seasonal things.

How do you feel about N.Y.C.?

N.Y.C. Good parts and bad, minus, it loves it. Takes a certain type of person to love it. Things you feel are important, the hate and suffering, the love and bad, I think peace is also important. Mean people out west, this is a tropical paradise, cover it in sand... seems like compared to N.Y.C., which feels real. Just it's things you see here are so ugly, you see pretty things, you know. Beautiful things everyday. Anybody growing up in it... grows up, where you see a certain amount of whites, certain amount of Jews, a certain amount of blacks; you are only seeing a slice of the whole, where N.Y.C. is the whole slice. I don't see people in it, I never seen a white girl until I moved to the city. You see people you see people all over, I mean you see this shit like once a week. You see people all over in your field.

Diane is telling me that you and a friend are going to farm a lab.

Ish, my friend Jordan want to do it.

Is it just an idea or is it forming?

Well, I think it is going to work, I've been wanting to start one for a while, I was one of the guys who started New Beginning.

What does it involve to cut up a record label of that sort? What do you have to do?

Takes time. A lot of time.

Do you have any idea of what bands are going to be on it at all?

We're going to do a compilation with Youth of Today, Bold, Straight Ahead, Undying.

Is it going to be N.Y. bands only?

That one will be N.Y. one.

We quickly running out of things to ask, so, well, anything else you want to say.

That thing he showed me before, Doc Martens?

(Calling him again) Hey, Sam, show that Doc Martens card to Ray.

We know you're not a fascist band, you're against fascism.

(Yawning quickly, but, his response is in the yawn) I think it's "Well, yes.")

How do you feel about that?

About what?

Fascist bands.

Fascist bands, I guess you're going to have to describe what you mean by that.

Or their new label Pro-American.

I think Pro-American leads to nothing but fascism and hard right-wing things. When we taking a step back and looking at it, I'd say we are more of a left band more than anything. Definitely not Pro-American, but, definitely pro what you stand for and that was not doing it. I mean Ronald Reagan is such a right-wing guy.

Lesbian!

I go for straight right and wrong inside and definitely Mr. Reagan doesn't. He wants things to be better off for the upper class.

Wait, you can be Pro-American and not agree with Reagan.

Well, I can understand how you can be...

Pro-American versus for America.

I tell you, I don't understand how the more, Sun Ra, to interrupt to an artist, don't understand how the more art is Pro-American because the more you fight for it, you're not going to get anything out of it. I mean, yeah, we're for Reagan, he doesn't want to help the poor, he wants to be out of it. Do you think all these people who are pro-American, pro-Reagan, are not helping? That would be the last to go! Do you think they want a bunch of valid kids around reading "I'm" and supporting these guys?

He has any political or social line of sit?

If I said before I don't have a party line, but, definitely anti-fascist, the left, I care you know, the left is the right. You have nothing for the people and you have nothing for the elite for, it's nothing in the middle, it's definitely the middle class.

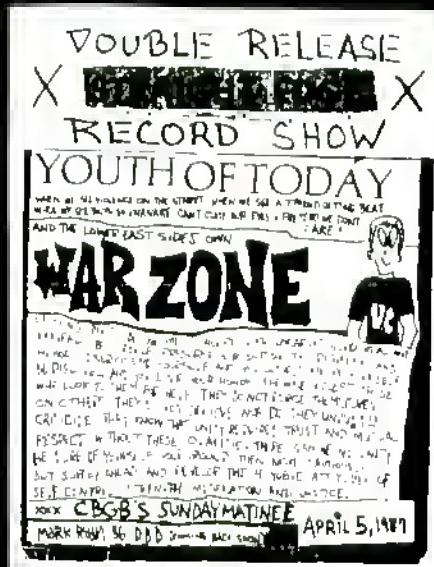
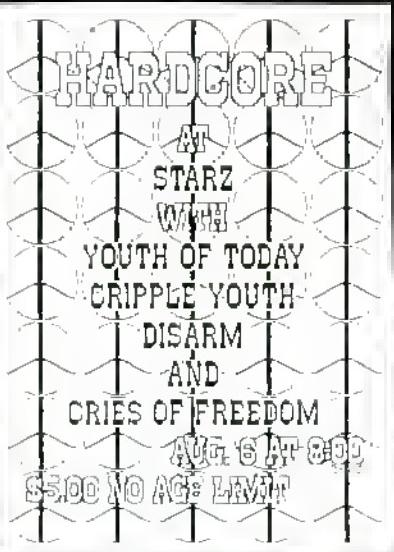
Is you think these should be a party for that?

Oh yeah, right back in N.Y.C. we there to be a sign, it's a determined citizens, but, you know, I can never be again!

You can be eco-conscious, but, you might like your company. I will your country, I will your country, I will your government.

Well, I am your friend, eh?

YOUTH OF TODAY FLYER GALLERY



Youth Of Today
Crippled Youth
Disarm
Cries Of Freedom
Starz
Aug. 6, 1985

Youth Of Today
Warzone
CBGB's
April 5, 1987
I.O.T. LP & WARZONE 7" came out around now. Also, this was Side By Side's 1st show.

Uniform Choice
Youth Of Today
Unity
Instinct
Half-Off

Fender's
Jan. 10 1987
This show didn't happen.

Youth Of Today
Token Entry
Final Terror
Albany
Apr. 1 1987

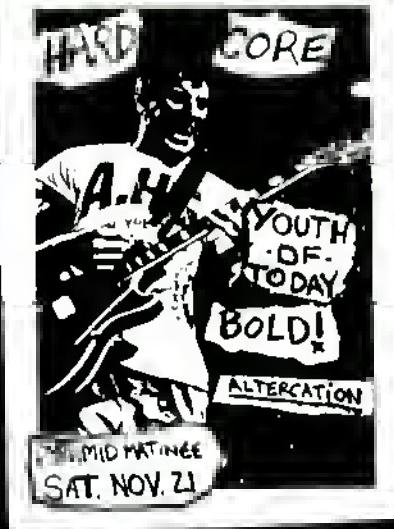
Youth Of Today
Bold
To Milk On Tuesday
Side Awake
Aware
Chatham Oaks
Jan. 2, 1987



Youth Of Today
Bold
Gorilla Biscuits
Upfront
Subertouch
Wide Awake
Aware
The Right Track Inn
May 23, 1987

7 Seconds
Youth Of Today
Crippled Youth
Rat
Aug. 12, 1985





Youth Of Today
Bold
Altercation

Pyramid
Nov. 21, 1987
This show didn't happen.



Youth Of Today
Warzone
Crippled Youth
Rest In Pieces

CBGB's
June 8, 1986
This show featured
Craig Ahead on bass &
Tommy Carroll on drums.
Y.O.T. did a short East
Coast tour with this line-up.



Aug. 28 at the Anthrax

YOUTH OF TODAY

BACK FROM UNITED STATES TOUR

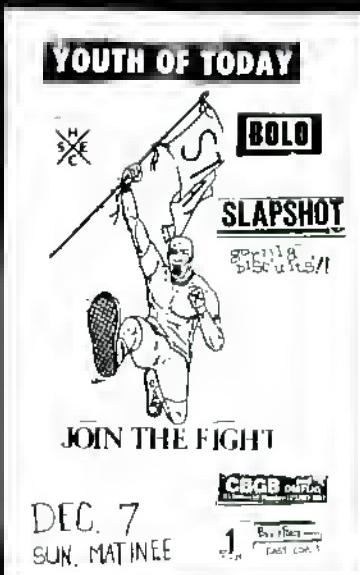


Youth Of Today
Warzone
Side By Side

Anthrax
Aug. 28/Sept. 28, 1987
Only one of these shows went on.



Murphy's Law
Youth Of Today
Half-Off &
others
Fenders
Feb 8, 1987



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punk

